THE DIGNITY OF THE Scottish Peerage VINDICATED.

Fortes creantur fortibus & bonis:
Est in juvencis, est in equis patrum
Virtus: nec imbellem feroces
Progenerant aquilæ columbam.

HORAT.

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THE DIGNITY OF THE Scottish Peerage VINDICATED.

DISTINCTION of Superiority ſeems not ſo much neceſſary by the Rules of Society, as from the different Capacities of Mankind: For what Number of Men, ſuppoſed to be naturally free, and ſeverally independent one of another, that ſhould conſent to unite themſelves in Society for their common Defence and Protection, would be ſo fond of this Equality, as to commit the Direction of their publick Affairs to every ſingle one or more, indifferently by Turns, without Regard to their Qualifications for ſuch Truſt? Would not the firſt preſſing Occaſion to exert themſelves againſt a Foreign Enemy

diſcover the Abſurdity of this Parity; and that Gratitude, that is naturally inherent in every Man, whilſt unbyaſs'd by private Views, excite the People to reward the ſhining Merit of thoſe who had moſt eminently diſtinguiſh'd themſelves for the common Intereſt to the utmoſt of their Power; and the great Eſteem they would conceive of the high Endowments of ſuch Heroes, prevail on them to intruſt Men of ſuch tranſcendent Worth with the ſupreme Direction and Management of their Affairs; while thoſe of inferior and ordinary Capacities (who make up the Bulk of every Nation) would be ſatisfied with their own low Condition, and think themſelves happy enough to enjoy their Liberties under ſuch Protection? And as People directed by their Affections are generally extravagant in their Reſentments of Favours, as well as of Injuries, they may often think their Benefactors not ſufficiently rewarded, unleſs they perpetuate theſe Dignities and high Truſts likewiſe to their Poſterity. This may not unreaſonably be ſuppoſed to have been the original Condition of ſome Governments; ſeeing many free States of *Italy*, ſince the Break of the *Roman* Empire, have ſo behaved themſelves on ſuch Occaſions. And as the Management of the Publick Affairs of every Society, however inconſiderable, requires a conſiderable Number of Perſons beſides the Supreme Magiſtrate, we find in every State, ancient or modern, whether its Conſtitution be Monarchical, or popular, a certain Number of Perſons, eminently dignified, and diſtinguiſhed from their Fellow Subjects, who in Subordination to the ſovereign Power have exerced a Kind of Authority over a certain Number of the Subjects. Theſe, according to the modern Appellation, are diſtinguiſhed under the Denomination of Nobility, and are in moſt States hereditary: But the Manner of acquiring this elevated Dignity differs,

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almoſt in every Government. In theſe Conſtitutions which are ſuppoſed to be founded upon the *patria poteſtas*, where (as ſome will have it) the Prince has a natural Right to the Dominion of his Subjects, the Nobility are generally the Chiefs amongſt the ſeveral Tribes, whoſe Dignity depends not on the Favour of the Prince, but (like his own Right to the Sovereignty) is derived by lineal Succeſſion from the firſt Father and Founder of the Family. The Nobles of *Iſrael* appear to have been of this Kind, tho their Monarchy was plainly a *Theocracy*: As we ſee *Moſes*, the ſeveral Judges, *Saul* and *David* took on them the Government by the eſpecial Direction of Heaven ſufficiently verified; and the Right of the Poſterity of *David* to the Sovereignty was founded on the Promiſe: Yet the Nobles, or Elders, as they are often called, ſeem to have been hereditary, and not to have derived their Dignity from the Favour of the Prince; but were much reſpected both by the Sovereign and People, and often admitted to a Share of the Legiſlature. When *Moſes* eaſed himſelf of the great Weight of the Government, it was devolved upon fit Men taken from amongſt the Elders; and in Abſence of the Regal Power, we find *Ezra* acted in Concert with them.

In the Eaſtern Monarchies, however abſolute they appear to have been, yet the ſeven Princes of *Media* and *Perſia* ſeem to have been veſted with great Powers, and to have made up a Part of the Legiſlature; for the wiſe Men, the King's Council, only adviſed, but Laws were concerted by the Conſent of the King and Princes, and thereafter recorded among the Laws of the *Medes* and *Perſians*, whereby, according to their Conſtitution, they became irreverſible by the Sovereign. In *Sparta* the Power of the Nobility was yet greater; for tho the Monarchy was hereditary, yet its Power extended no farther than to the Command of their Fleets and Armies,

mies, and was accountable to the *Ephori* for its Conduct. Even in popular States we find the Power of the Nobility to have been very great. But where there is no Monarchy to protect the Nobility and People from their mutual Encroachments upon one another, it never fails to have bad Effects: As we ſee in *Florence*, which State, before it fell into the Hands of the *Medici*, was intirely popular. How often was its Tranquillity diſturbed by the Jealouſies the Nobility and People conceived of one another? And how many deſtructive Revolutions did it occaſion? Likewiſe in *Rome*, which, after the Expulſion of the *Tarquins*, ſeems to have been an *Ariſtocracy*, yet the People being imployed in the Wars grew ſenſible of their own Power, and tho they were (to pleaſe them) by their Tribunes admitted to a ſhare of the Government repreſentatively, yet their Jealouſies of the Nobility ſtill increaſed, and were at laſt the Occaſion of the intire Loſs of the Privileges of the one, as well as the Liberty of the other. 'Tis obſervable in the Eaſtern Empire, that after *Cyrus* overturned the Civil Conſtitution, and eſtabliſh'd a Tyranny ſupported by a military Power, he deſtroyed the Nobility who had been in a Manner Guardians of the People's Liberties, and ſerved as Checks upon the Regal Power, and in their Place appointed Lieutenants of Provinces, and Governors of Towns and Caſtles, ſeverally independent one of another, whom he continued or removed as he pleas'd. The ſame may be obſerved in all Tyrannies where the People have not the leaſt Shadow of Liberty, but every Thing is managed at the Diſcretion of a Prince governing by a military Power, as in *Turky*, *Perſia*, *Mogul*, *Fez*, *&c.* in all which Empires there are no hereditary Dignities, nor any Subject veſted with any Power longer than the Sovereign inclines to truſt him. Whence it may be obſerved, that as hereditary Dignities can only ſubſiſt in a free State,

State, the Deſign of ſuch elevated Stations has been originally to check the Extravagance of Regal Power, in caſe of a weak or wicked Adminiſtration. And on the other Hand, ſhould the People be ſo far blind to their Duty, as to allow their Nobles to abuſe their high Truſt, they as certainly meet with the ſame Hardſhips and the ſame Loſs of Liberty under an Ariſtocracy; as may be noticed at this Day in *Poland* and *Venice*, where the Power of the Nobility is ſo exorbitant, and the People ſo much oppreſſed, that by Habit ſo long deprived of Means and Capacity to recover their Liberty, they ſeem to be quite diſpirited, and to have loſt the Senſe of it: Tho' in *Venice* the Nobles are ſtill ſo jealous of the Subjects, that they dare not truſt them with Arms on any Account, but manage their Wars by foreign Mercenaries. Whence this Opinion of a very ſagacious States-man ſeems well founded, That a mixt Government is the beſt, becauſe the ſeveral Parts of ſuch a Conſtitution, ſerving as Checks upon one another, it becomes thereby leſs liable to Corruption, and the People's Privileges more ſecure from the Encroachments of their Superiors. Monarchy, from the Conduct of ſeveral States, ſeems the moſt neceſſary Part. Tho' *Rome* hated the Name, yet it appears to have been highly ſenſible of this Defect from the Creation of their Dictators, who were veſted with Powers ſuperiour to any King, where the Government is not altogether military. And it might be made appear demonſtratively, that the want of a ſingle Perſon veſted with ſovereign Authority, whoſe Right to exerce ſuch a Power ſhould be unqueſtionable, occaſioned the Ruin of that State, and made Way for the Ambition of its Generals, to aſſume a Power by Force, which they could never propoſe to obtain by Conſent, and inſtead of a civil to eſtabliſh a military Government.

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THUS, from what has been obſerved, PEERAGE appears to have been the earlieſt and moſt uſefull Part of civil Government. I ſhall now therefore take a ſhort View of the *Scots* Conſtitution, its *Peerage* and preſent Peers, the Difference betwixt the ancient and modern Ways of attaining that Dignity; whereby the Merit of thoſe few Families who arrived at that elevated Pitch of Honour, before it was abuſed, while the only Acceſs to it was by the rugged and difficult Paths of Vertue, will appear in the clearer Light, compared with thoſe who may have attained it by other Means.

THE *Scots* Nation muſt be allowed to be, at this Day, the moſt inconſiderable State in *Europe*; but in regard it hath preſerved its Freedom and Independency ſo much longer than any other, it is in that Reſpect not unjuſtly to be preferred. The Peerage or Nobility were the earlieſt Part of its Conſtitution; for, if we may credit their ancient Hiſtory, this Colony of *Scots* inhabiting *Britain*, lived for many Ages in *Albion* without other Form of Government than the ſeveral Clans, or increaſed Families, under the Dominion of their own reſpective Chiefs. And after *Fergus* the Son of *Ferquhard* was veſted with ſovereign Authority and abſolute Dominion over the whole Nation: Yet this Power of the Chiefs was inſeparable from them, as being neither acquired from, nor, in any Reſpect, depending upon the Favour of the Prince; but, as before obſerved, deſcended to the lineal Heir by Right of Succeſſion from the firſt Father of the Family, who being all originally deſcended from the ſame Perſon, are Vaſſals not of Force or Conſtraint, but of Choice and Affection. Theſe were the ancient Nobility; but whether they made up a Part of the Legiſlature, is what cannot be ſo poſitively determined, becauſe the ancient Part of the *Scots* Hiſtory being founded on verbal Tradition, gives us only the Account of Facts in the general, without entring into a Detail of Circumſtances.

cumſtances. They tell us ſuch and ſuch Laws were made by ſuch Kings, without taking further Notice whether theſe Laws were concerted by the Advice or Conſent of the Nobles. But as to Affairs of Moment, where the common Safety was concerned to defend the Country from foreign Invaſion; in ſuch Caſes the Conſent of the Nobility was abſolutely neceſſary, becauſe, as before obſerved, the Power of the People was naturally veſted in the ſeveral Chiefs: Which is further obvious from ſeveral Paſſages of the *Scots* Hiſtory, particularly in the Reign of *Kenneth* II. That Prince claimed the *Pictiſh* Monarchy in Right of his Grand-mother; and tho' that Nation diſputed not his Right to their Crown, yet jealous, leaſt their Country, by his Acceſſion to the Government, ſhould become an Appanage of *Scotland*, they reſolved to obſtruct his Settlement by Force, and elected a King to defend their Liberties and Independency. *Kenneth* hereupon calling a general Convention of his Nobility, endeavoured to convince them of the great Advantages they would reap by the Acqueſt of ſuch a Dominion; that tho' they had choſen a King to oppoſe him, yet they were ſo weakned by Diviſion, and his own Party amongſt them ſo conſiderable, that they would find the Conqueſt of them eaſy; and doing it in that Manner would render them abſolute and uncontroulable Maſters of the whole half of the Iſland. Tho' theſe Sentiments were juſt, as appeared by the Event, yet the Nobility, thinking it an Affair of greater Difficulty, and that it was rather the King's perſonal Quarrel, than any real Intereſt of the Country, abſolutely refuſed. Which obliged this ſagacious Prince to have Recourſe to an Artifice that prevailed on them to proſecute the War with as much Eagerneſs as he could deſire, which terminated in the Extirpation of the *Pictiſh* Government. From this the Power of the ancient Nobility may be eaſily judged of: But we do not find they were dignified with

any Titles of Honour derived from the Prince. But as Time began to diſcover the Inconveniencies of their looſe Manner of living in common, the Sovereign, to prevent the Diſorders neceſſarly attending ſuch a Way of Life, aſſigned to every Clan a certain Extent of Property in Proportion to its Numbers; and divided the Country into ſeveral Provinces, and committed the Government of them to ſuch of the Chiefs as he conceived were beſt qualified for ſo great a Truſt. The Execution of Laws and Adminiſtration of Juſtice was committed to theſe Lieutenants; and beſides the Authority they were veſted with from the Prince, none were otherwiſe recommended to this high Office than by their diſtinguiſhing Worth, and great Intereſt they had formerly had within the Province. The Reputation of theſe Governours (who were diſtinguiſhed by the Name of THANES) was very great, and their Power within their reſpective Diſtricts uncontroulable. But 'tis more than probable that theſe *Thanes* thus eminently diſtinguiſh'd from the reſt of the Nobility were only for Life, or during the Prince's Pleaſure, and deſcended on no other Account to their Poſterity than by the ſame high Qualities that had recommended themſelves to that elevated Office. This is pretty evident from the Conduct of K. *Malcolm Canmore*. That Prince out of a gratefull Senſe of the Service of thoſe *Thanes*, who, notwithſtanding their Submiſſion to the Uſurpation of *Mackbeth*, no ſooner heard of the Arrival of their natural Prince with a handfull of a regular Army to protect them, than they deſerted the Tyrant, and with all their Power aſſiſted the King to reſcue their Liberty from Oppreſſion. Theſe he dignified with the Title of EARL, whereby their former Power and Authority became hereditary. If it had been ſo before, this would have been no Compliment; for we do not find that the *Scots* were formerly fond of empty Titles, as we ſee when the Name of *Duke*

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was firſt introduced amongſt us, it was offered to the Earl of *Douglas*; but he generouſly diſpiſed it as new, and refuſed to accept of a Name that added neither to the Power nor Reputation of his Family. So that this high Degree of Nobility veſted with ſo much hereditary Power derived from the Crown, had its Riſe in this Reign. And tho' the Power of the former Nobles (the Chiefs) was not hereby leſſened, yet ſuch of them as were planted in thoſe Earldoms, thereby in a great Meaſure loſt their Independency, as becoming Vaſſals to the Earls: But theſe, who by their Situation were free from this Inconveniency, and depended immediately upon the Crown, underwent no Alteration; and in Proportion to their hereditary Power and perſonal Worth, were as much regarded as the Earls, and often promiſcouſly rank'd with them. The Six Ranſomers for King *William* were half Earls, half Gentlemen, or rather Nobles of the ſecond Degree; and the Nobility, as they are called in the general, who in the Reign of *Robert Bruce*, addreſſed the Pope in Name of, and (as before obſerved) as repreſenting the whole *Scots* Nation, ſignifying their ſteady Reſolution to maintain their Independency, and that it was in vain for the King of *England*, or any other, to propoſe to conquer a People ſo firmly reſolved not to outlive Liberty. Theſe Chiefs (I ſay) both Earls and Gentlemen are all ranged under the general Denomination of Nobles, and not according to the modern Way, WE *the Nobility*, *Barons*, &c. Nor were the Numbers of the Nobility ever juſtly aſcertained before the Reign of *James* I. For before Parliaments were introduced, our National Aſſemblies were only on Occaſion of War, when they were called in this Manner; The King by general Summons or Proclamation appointed all the Chiefs with their Vaſſals and Followers to attend him at a certain Day. And our Wars, ſince the Expulſion of the *Danes*, being generally with *Eng-*

land, and requiring Expedition, the northern Chiefs were ſeldom preſent at theſe Meetings, as not being able to reach the Place appointed within the Days aſſigned. But after the Settlement of *Robert Bruce*, the Face of Affairs in *Scotland* was much changed. He called the firſt National Aſſembly, to deliberate upon proper Meaſures for reſettling the Peace of the Country upon ſolid Foundations: But in the ſuceeding Reigns Parliaments grew more frequent, and according to the Conceſſion of *Bruce*, every Free-holder, or Chief who held of the Crown, tho' never ſo inconſiderable, was admitted as a Member. *James* I. perceiving the Inconveniency of this, that the expenſive Attendance of theſe ſmall Barons was what their Circumſtances could not well allow of; and on the other Hand, that they were an Eye-ſore to the great and powerfull Barons, who diſdained to ſee thoſe inconſiderable Families, who had ſo little Power or Capacity to be of Uſe to their Country, and yet admitted to a ſhare of the Legiſlature promiſcuouſly with them, redreſſed this, not by diſtinguiſhing them into two Houſes, but by reducing their Number thus. He dignified thoſe powerful Chiefs with the Title of Lord, whereby they were veſted with much the ſame Power over their reſpective Vaſſals that the Earls were, and ranked with them as Nobility, while the ſmall Barons were regarded as Commoners, and appointed to repreſent themſelves by one or two from every Shire according to its Bigneſs, elected by free Voices. But the Highland Chiefs who are a warlike People, and better qualified to ſerve their Country in Time of War, than to concert Laws and Rules of Life for regulating Society in Time of Peace, never appeared at any Aſſemblies where the Intereſt of their Country required not their immediate Aſſiſtance to defend their Privileges from foreign Invaſion or inteſtine Commotions. This is probably the Reaſon why they were not by *James* I. ranked amongſt

amongſt the Nobility, ſince their Power much exceeded many of thoſe then dignified.

But as the Power of theſe ancient Nobility was great, ſo was their Number ſmall, and, as *Salluſt* complaining of the Corruption of *Rome*, that had been ſo profuſe of its Favours to *C. Marius*, ſays, *That ſo great was the Conſular Dignity that the Merit of one Life could never lay claim to it; but till that Time, had ever been conferred on the Nobility, whoſe Anceſtors had for many Generations eminently diſtinguiſh'd themſelves for their Countries Intereſt.* Theſe were lookt on as fit Objects to be intruſted as Guardians of their Country's Liberty, which an ambitious Man raiſed from nothing was under no ſuch Ties to protect: For ſuch a one aſhamed of his Origine, and ſetting no Bounds to his Ambition, if he ſucceeds, will certainly imploy theſe Arms his Country may intruſt him with for its Defence, to reduce it to Slavery and an abſolute Obedience to his own arbitrary Commands, as we ſee it happened to *Britain* under *Cromwel*.

So likewiſe amongſt the *Scots*, ſo great was their Regard for this elevated Dignity of Peerage, that none were admitted to it, who (beſides the great Power and Numbers of their Vaſſals) were not alſo recommended by a Succeſſion of Merit, whoſe Anceſtors for ſeveral Generations, as well as themſelves, had diſintereſtedly riſqued their Lives for the common Intereſt. This is obſervable from the Conduct of King *Robert Bruce*: For from the Death of *Alexander* III. to his Settlement, the *Scots* were miſerably oppreſſed. Several of the Earls, who had been for many peaceful Ages wallowing in Luxury and Eaſe, quite loſt their Virtue, and fearing the ſuperior Power of *England*, baſely deſerted their Country's Intereſt, and ſubmitted to a foreign Yoke; but the Gentry or lower Rank of Nobility had ſo lively

lively a Senſe of Liberty, and ſo much valued thoſe Privileges their Forefathers had at the Expence of ſo much Blood handed down to them, that no Toil or Hazard could prevail on them to give them up. Tho they had a Nation more powerful than their own to encounter, and aided by many of their own Nobility, who were well acquainted with their Circumſtances; tho they were driven from their Homes, beat in the Fields, their Towns and Caſtles garriſon'd by the Enemy, and themſelves obliged to find Protection amongſt the Woods, Mountains, and Moſs-haggs, expoſed to the Severities of the Weather in the harſheſt Seaſons, and often deſtitute of the Neceſſaries of Life, and, when they fell in their Enemies Hands impriſoned and often put to ignominious Deaths as Rebels and Traitors: Yet all this, nor the continual Run of Succeſs that attended their Enemies for ſo many Years was able to diſcourage them from perſevering in their Duty; but with an undaunted Spirit they aſſerted their Liberty with wonderful Conſtancy, till Heaven rewarded them with the Fruits of their Labours, by reſtoring their Freedom and the Independency of their Government.

HERE was Virtue not to be parallel'd. What Favours could any State grant that theſe Worthies might not have claimed as their Right? Yet ſo high a Value was put upon this elevated Degree of Nobility flowing from the Crown, that during *Bruce*'s Reign, there was but † one advanced to it. And ſo high an Opinion was conceived of the Merit of thoſe Families who had attained that Dignity in former Reigns, that the Earls of *Fife* and *March*, the two greateſt Families that had joined the *Engliſh* Intereſt, were reſtored; as thinking it a Hardſhip that the Demerit of one Man ſhould

† *Thomas Randolf* Earl of *Murray*.

ſhould deprive his Poſterity of the Advantages had been acquired by the ſucceſſive Merit of ſo many of their Anceſtors. Moſt of thoſe Heroes, who from the Beginning of the Troubles, had in Spite of all Diſcouragement appeared to aſſert their Country's Liberty, gloriouſly periſhed in that Cauſe, before they were ended; but left behind them Iſſue worthy of ſuch Parents, who following their Example, with inimitable Fortitude finiſhed the glorious Courſe their Fathers had begun.

In the ſucceeding Reign of *David Bruce*, their Virtue had a further Trial. The incredible Succeſs of *Edward Baliol*, who like a reſiſtleſs Torrent over-ran the Country, and reduced it to almoſt as great Hardſhips as it had ſuffered from *Edward* I. yet could not move the invincible Reſolution of theſe hereditary Heroes; nor was the Enemy joined by one *Scots* Man, the baſe and ungrateful Earl of *Fife* excepted; but all with uncommon Fortitude bore their Misfortunes, and with a Reſolution and Obſtinacy peculiar to themſelves encountered theſe ſeemingly inſuperable Difficulties, till they reſtored Peace to their Country, and Liberty and Independency to their Poſterity. Yet there was but one of theſe Worthies advanced to the Dignity of Earl in this Reign, and ſo high a Value was then put upon it, that the Branches of the Royal Family excepted, there was but * one other advanced to it before the Reign of King *James* II. who made ſeveral Creations, tho not veſted with the ſame Powers as thoſe

* There were ſome Confirmations of new Families to old Dignities; as the E. *Douglaſs*'s Son, of a firſt Marriage by the Heireſs of *Mar*, (there being no Male Heirs that claimed it) was confirmed in that Dignity; and his firſt Son of the third Marriage by the Heireſs of *Angus*, was confirmed in the Earldom of *Angus* in the ſame Manner; which Confirmations run in theſe Words, *Dediſſe & confirmaſſe*: But theſe neither took the Name of the former Earls, nor properly repreſented them, but were rank'd in their Precedency from their own Acceſſion, and Date of the new *Dedimus*.

thoſe formerly, who had this additional Privilege of the *quatuor puncta coronæ*. Now that thoſe who are Strangers to the *Scots* Hiſtory and Conſtitution may form the beter Judgment of the high Value was formerly put on this Dignity, and of the Means by which it was acquired, I ſhall give a ſhort Account of the Merit and Circumſtance of theſe two Families who attained it at a Time when of all the Perſons who had ſo well deſerved of their Country on the Occaſions juſt mentioned, only they were accounted worthy of this higheſt Pitch of Honour. The firſt was the Earl of *Douglas* created by *David Bruce*, who beſides the ordinary Powers attending this firſt Degree of Nobility, was veſted with that of firſt Peer and all the Privileges belonging to it, which had been formerly in the Family of the Earl of *Fife* then extinct. The Power and Merit of this Family is ſo conſpicuous and univerſally known, and a particular Hiſtory writ of it, that it would be ſuperfluous to enter into any further Account of it here. The other Family advanced to it was the Lord *Lindeſay* of *Crawfurd* and *Glenesk* who was made Earl of *Crawfurd* by *Robert* II. The Merit and Power of this Family, juſtly conſidered, was not much inferior to the other. *Alexander* Lord *Lindeſay*, who was married to the King's Siſter, and created Earl of *Crawfurd*, was in Right of his Mother poſſeſt of the Lordſhip of *Glenesk*, which comprehended the greateſt Part of *Angus*, and Part of *Perthſhire*; and in Right of his Grandfather, was not only poſſeſt of *Crawfurd* and its Appanages (the paternal Eſtate of the Family) but was likewiſe ſupreme Lord of the Countries of *Badenoch*, *Lochaber*, and *Strathdon*, formerly in the Poſſeſſion of the great *John Cuming* of *Badenoch*. This was the Extent of his Power, theſe his Circumſtances, very unlike thoſe of the modern Peers. As to the high Qualities whereby they were acquired

red, this *Alexander* is himſelf repreſented as a Perſon of extraordinary Endowments: He was the Son of *David* Lord *Lindeſay* of *Glenesk*, by *Catherine Stirling* Heireſs of it; *David* was a Perſon of ſingular Valour and Integrity, and was, with moſt of his Followers, ſlain at the Battle of *Duplin*, diſputing his Country's Rights; and the Year following his elder Brother *James* Lord of *Crawfurd*, and his younger Brother *William* Lord *Lindeſay* of *Byres* (from whom the Family bearing his Name ſo famous in the *Scots* Hiſtory is deſcended) were both ſlain in the ſame Cauſe at *Halidonhill*. *James* left behind him one Son *David*, who dying without Heirs, was ſucceeded, as obſerved, by the firſt Earl. Theſe three great Men were the Sons of the famous *James* Lord *Lindeſay* of *Crawfurd*, who was one of the firſt of thoſe generous Spirits that refuſed to ſign that inglorious Submiſſion to *Edward* I. ſo many of the *Scots* Nobility complyed with. He diſintereſtedly reſolved to ſerve his Country, firſt under the matchleſs *Wallace*, tho a Perſon of inferior Quality, hazarded his own Life, and thoſe of his Followers, with every Thing that was dear to them, in the charming Cauſe of Liberty; and tho afterwards expoſed to the numberleſs Hardſhips before mentioned, yet could never be reduced to ſubmit to a Foreign Tyranny. He, with the Lord *Malcolm Fleming* of *Bigar* were the firſt who met King *Robert* I. in *Annandale*, and diſpatch'd the treacherous *Cumings*; and notwithſtanding the inſuperable Difficulties they had to encounter, bravely perſiſted in the glorious Courſe they had begun. This *James* got a Gift of the intire Forfeiture of *John Cuming* of *Badenoch*, and was afterwards killed in a Battle at *Stirling*, before the End of the War: He was great Grandſon to the Lord *Lindeſay* of *Crawfurd*, who was one of the Hoſtages for King *William*. This Family, according to the Accounts they have preſerved of their Origine, are

deſcended from one *Lindeſay* properly ſo called, who in the Reign of *Kenneth* II. was remarkable for his extraordinary Abilities both of Mind and Body; and by his extenſive Capacity for Counſel, as well as Action, acquired an univerſal Eſteem, eſpecially of the King, who out of a Regard for his great Services in the *Pictiſh* War, gave him a conſiderable Eſtate in that Country. This Family, after the Reign of *Malcolm Canmore*, when Sirnames became hereditary, being then both numerous and powerful, and retaining a vaſt Regard for the Memory of this one of their Anceſtors, took on them his Name, as the univerſal Mark and hereditary Sirname of the whole Family.

THUS amongſt the *Scots*, as well as other virtuous Nations, we ſee real Merit was the only Way to claim the Government's Favours; nor was the State ever extravagant that Way, but rewarded every one in Proportion to his Worth. This higheſt Honour was not to be acquired by the Services of one or two; but Families, who had riſen by Degrees, whoſe Enemies by Time and a long Succeſſion of Merit, and Increaſe of Power, being worn out, were beyond the Reach of Emulation or Envy, and whoſe remarkable Services in ſeveral Ages had acquired the univerſal Eſteem of the Nation. Theſe were admitted to this Dignity, as only qualified for the Enjoyment of it. Nor was the State diſappointed of the great Hopes, were juſtly conceived of the Poſterity of theſe Nobles: For on every Occaſion where the Country's Intereſt required the Subjects to riſque their Eaſe, Blood and Lives for its Service, we find theſe Families, rather like the ſame Perſon than a Race of Men, exerting themſelves with the ſame Vigour and inſeparable Attachment for the Rights of the Society. This Earl *Alexander* happening to live at a Time when the Peace of his Country was luckily undiſturb'd, was thereby deprived of Opportunities to exerciſe his Valour

in

in its Defence. His Son *David* the ſecond Earl, during his Stay at *London*, negotiating the Relief of King *James* I. acted by that generous Magnanimity peculiar to his Family, and incapable of Fear where his Country's Honour was concerned, frankly accepted of the Challenge given to the *Scots* Nobility then at *London* by the Lord *Wales*. This Hero had been famous all over *Europe* for his warlike Exploits in ſingle Fight, and imagined he would make an eaſy Conqueſt of the SCOT, but was diſappointed to his great Confuſion; for the Earl with great Dexterity avoiding his Thruſt, by his extraordinary Vigour and Strength of Body drove him out of the Saddle, while he ſat ſo firm himſelf, that the Spectators cry'd, *The* Scot *was lock'd in the Saddle*; which the Earl hearing as he ended his Career, diſmounted, and tho' completely armed, mounted again without Aſſiſtance, to the great Amazement of all who were preſent. This Earl was the chief Inſtrument in preſerving his Country from the Miſeries the Earl of *Athole* intended to have brought upon it; for he no ſooner heard of the King's Murder, than he with all his Power invaded *Athole*, and thereby diſappointed the black Deſigns of the treacherous Earl: And on every other ſuch Opportunity, the Behaviour of this Family of *Crawfurd*, and the other of *Byres* was much the ſame; their ſteady Adherence to the Intereſt of their King and Country was remarkable on every Occaſion that required their Service, as in the Rebellion againſt *James* III. at *Bannockburn*, the Battle of *Flowdon*, civil Wars at the Reformation, and in the Reign of *Charles* I. *&c.*

FROM the ſhort Account of this Family of *Lindeſay*, the *Dignity* of the *Scots* Peerage may be eaſily judged of, ſince none were before the Union of the Crowns admitted to it by other Means than thoſe formerly mentioned. How highly they valued their Privileges themſelves, and how ſenſible

they were that the Admiſſion of any one to that Dignity by other Ways than by the ſame ſtrict Paths of Vertue whereby their Fathers had attained it, would abuſe and render it contemptible, we learn from their Conduct in the Reign of *James* III. The eaſy Temper of that Prince expos'd him to Flattery, and the Nobility finding he allowed himſelf to be manag'd by a few worthleſs Favourites of mean Extraction, left the Court; but when they heard that one *Cochran*, his chief Favourite, who had been a Maſon, was to be created Earl of *Mar*, their Jealouſy exceeding all Bounds, increaſt their Reſentment to an unjuſtifiable Height: For having met at *Lawder*, forgetting all Duty to their Sovereign, they violently ſeized the Court Paraſites, and hanged them as Traitors to their Country, except one *Ramſay*, whom they ſaved out of a Regard to the King's Deſire, and that himſelf was a Gentleman born. Nor can the Dignity of the *Scots* Peerage be ſaid to have been leſſened before the Union of the Crowns: For the Crown was not only carefull that it was conferred on none but Families of conſiderable Power and Reputation acquired by Degrees, whoſe Anceſtors had on many Occaſions remarkably diſtinguiſh'd themſelves for the Intereſt of their Country; but alſo that its Credit might not be impaired by increaſing the Number of Peers, there were rarely any Creations, but when there happened Extinctions, which before the modern Way of Entailing Dignities to Families were pretty frequent. Our Neighbour Nation, ignorant of *Scots* Affairs, give this Reaſon for the Antiquity of our Nobility, *Which*, ſay they, *conſiſts only in Name, ſince their Families may be often changed, and while the Stranger, who inherits the Dignity in Right of a Female takes (according to the Entail) the Name of the former Family, the World cannot be able thereby to diſtinguiſh whether the Male Line hath failed or not.* For their Information, it may not be

be thought impertinent to convince ſuch, that this Cuſtom amongſt the *Scots* is new, and never prevailed amongſt Families of Antiquity. The Truth of this might be made appear from many Facts, whereof I ſhall only adduce one pregnant Inſtance. *Archbald* Earl of *Douglas* and *Angus* died in the Reign of *James* VI. without Heirs of his own Body; and the King as neareſt Heir, according to the Female Succeſſion, claimed the Eſtate and Dignity in Right of his Grandmother Lady *Margaret Douglas*, only Daughter of **Cheeping** *Archbald*, by Queen *Margaret*. But Sir *William Douglas* of *Glenbervy*, who, tho' a remoter Relation by ſeveral Degrees, as being deſcended of Sir *William* ſlain at *Flowdon*, ſecond Son of *Archbald* **Bell the Cat**, yet as Heir Male aſſerted his Right according to the Conſtitution and fix'd Rules of ſucceeding to Dignities. The Trial came in before the Fifteen Judges of the Seſſion, and tho' the Court uſed all its Art to influence the Judges, yet the uncorrupt Bench determined, according to the Conſtitution and known Rules of Succeſſion in ſuch Caſes, in Favours of the Heir Male. Several Inſtances might be given of this kind, if the Length of this Paper would allow it; but this may ſerve to ſatisfy the World, that the Male Iſſue of many old Families hath never yet failed. As to thoſe that have, and thoſe that have not, I refer the Reader to the Liſt of the ancient Peerage hereto ſubjoined. But to return, it has been obſerved that *Peerage* has been the earlieſt and uſefulleſt Part of Government, and that as theſe hereditary Dignities can only ſubſiſt in civil Government, the Deſign of them in all free States and Ages has been, and now palpably is to ſerve as Checks upon the Regal Power, in caſe of a corrupt Adminiſtration. It has been likewiſe obſerved, that the ancient *Scots* Peers were naturally veſted with ſufficient Powers to qualify them for ſuch a Truſt, which they accordingly exerced on many ſuch Occaſions; and ſince theſe

Dignities

Dignities have been derived from the Crown, the only Acceſs to them was by real Merit and Power acquired by Degrees in the Manner formerly mentioned; and that this Dignity was never abuſed before the Union of the Crowns, either by admitting any one to it by other Means than thoſe taken notice of, or by increaſing the Number of Peers beyond its due Bounds. But in the ſucceeding Reigns it has been abuſed probably both Ways, ſince the Complaints of that kind ſeem at laſt to determine the Legiſlature, not only to put a Stop to this Practice for the future, but even to reduce thoſe already made to a competent Number, for ſupporting the Credit of this high Dignity; and to make the high Truſt and Power to be repoſed in theſe few hereditary, and intirely free and independent, that the Ends before obſerved, for which *Peerage* is intended, may be thereby better anſwered. What Perſons (or rather Families ſince this Truſt is to be hereditary) are moſt proper to be intruſted with theſe Dignities whereon the Happineſs or Miſery of the united Nation in ſo great a Meaſure depends, is no difficult Matter for any diſintereſted Perſon to determine. It has been already obſerved, and Perſons acquainted with Hiſtory will upon the leaſt View be convinced from Experience, how little new Men are to be intruſted with Power. Such Men, Seekers of themſelves, and led by their Ambition, having neither Friend nor Relation that can be injured with ſevere Meaſures, cannot be expected to ſerve their Country further than is conſiſtent with their own Intereſt. The Conduct of the *Athenian Piſiſtratus*, the *Roman Marius*, the *Italian Caſtrucio Caſtracani*, and many others of that Country, the *Scots Maitland* of *Lidingtoun*, and the *Engliſh Cromwel*, is a ſufficient Demonſtration of this Truth. Theſe were Men of extraordinary Capacities: Had they likewiſe been Men of Vertue and Integrity, of how great Uſe might

their

their high Qualities have been to the ſeveral Societies they lived in? But Ambition directing their Actions, they made it their Buſineſs firſt to divide their Country into Factions, and ſiding with that one that was moſt likely to prevail, they got no ſooner at the Head of it, than they turned that Power that was intended for the Preſervation of their Country's Liberties, to enſlave it; and tho' the Jealouſy the *Scots* Peers in that virtuous Age conceived of Upſtarts ſtopt the Career of *Maitland*, yet the great Dexterity he ſhewed in embroiling his Country, and artfully ſhifting Sides, ſufficiently demonſtrate his Abilities were no ways inferior to thoſe ſucceſsfull Tyrants of other Nations. But Men of noble Extraction have otherwiſe behaved: For theſe having a generous Education ſuitable to their Birth; the virtuous Example of ſo many of their Forefathers to imitate, who on every Occaſion diſintereſtedly exerted themſelves for their Country's Welfare; their numerous Relations, who muſt be ſenſibly affected with every Hardſhip that (contrary to the known Rules of the Society) may be impoſed on it by a weak or wicked Adminiſtration, are Ties that keep theſe Men to their Duty, whoſe Qualities are as certainly employed in doing of Good and ſerving the Publick, as thoſe of new Men are in the Service of their ambitious Projects. As *Plutarch* in his Life of *Brutus* ſays, Brutus *was like* Cæſar *inclined to Arts and Arms, and tho' inferior to* Cæſar *in the Exerciſe of both, yet in this he excelled him, that he never read but with a Deſign to ſubdue his Paſſions, nor drew his Sword but to ſerve his Country, whereas* Cæſar *made both ſubſervient to his Ambition.* The generous Spirit of *Brutus*, propoſing the glorious Conduct of his virtuous Anceſtors for his Imitation, had ſo juſt a Senſe of Liberty and Vertue, that he deem'd it infinitely more honourable to be one of the glorious Inſtruments of delivering his Country from Oppreſſion, than like

Cæſar

Cæsar, to become absolute Master of it. And so great an Esteem have virtuous Nations ever had for such Families that have on trying Occasions been of so great real Use to them, that one of such Patriots hath put a greater Stop to the Success of a Tyrant than the whole Half of a Nation. *Cæsar* was more afraid of the incorruptible Virtue of *Cato* than of the whole debauched State: Nor was it the personal Worth of *Cato* so much as the Reputation of his Family, who had on no Occasion deserted their Country's Interest; as *Lucan* in *Cæsar*'s Speech on the *Rubicon*, endeavouring to justify to his corrupted Army his lawless Conduct, notwithstanding the Opposition of *Cato*, calls them *nomina vana Catones*. It was the Example of his virtuous Predecessors taught *Cato* never to submit to Usurpation or Tyranny, and to prefer Death to an inglorious Submission. The same may be observed amongst People of inferior Rank. How many Examples have we from the Histories of all Nations, of mean Men of no worth, insinuating themselves upon a Court when the Ministry happens to be corrupt, and offering themselves to be the hated Tools of any Party, for executing the most unjustifiable Projects, if they can thereby raise themselves, and increase their Wealth, tho' it were to ruin their Country, while Men of honourable Birth refuse and disdain such Employments? And how many worthless Creatures of no Spirit, who have amassed Money by indirect Ways, have been observed to employ it in purchasing of Honours and Offices, which they on every Occasion prostitute to ruin their Country; which indeed cannot be said to be properly theirs, since while it subsisted by the Practice of Virtue, they could not have been other than the Scum of the People? But Men of honourable Families have ever suffered with their Country. These preferring virtuous Innocence, tho' never so much discouraged, to the gaudy Temptations of a corrupt Court,

are

are perſwaded that *

When Vice prevails and impious Men bear Sway,
The Poſt of Honour is a private Station.

the Proſperity of the Wicked will never be regarded by ſuch Men as the real Favours of Heaven, or perſwade them that Things are altered by Succeſs, and that their Duty ought to be deſerted, becauſe perſevering in it becomes inconvenient. No, Men of real Worth, acted by right Principles, can adhere to a good Cauſe in the worſt of Times, and, like *Cato*, rather than ſubmit, chooſe to periſh with the dying Liberties of their Country. That the real *Scots* Peers (by whom I mean thoſe who have acquired their Nobility by the honourable Means I have mentioned) may be juſtly regarded as Families of real Merit, worthy of ſo high a Truſt, their Conduct on many Occaſions ſufficiently demonſtrates. How often do we find them with a laudable Unanimity aſſembled for the Defence of their Country? One Inſtance whereof, amongſt many others, was the fatal Battle of *Flowdon*. How few Names, contained in the Liſt hereunto annexed, are not likewiſe to be found amongſt the Slain at that Action? But a recent and more pregnant Inſtance of this is obſervable from their Conduct in the Reign of *Charles* I. The Court Meaſures in the Beginning of that Reign were jealouſt by moſt honeſt Men, and oppoſed by the Nobility, *which*, as the wiſeſt Statesmen obſerve, *might have produced good Effects, had there been no Faction at the Bottom of it.* But the Complaints of *England* no ſooner diſcovered themſelves to be the Cries of a pernicious Faction ſtriking at the Monarchy, and deſigning to overturn the happy Conſtitution, under which themſelves and Fore-fathers had lived ſo happily for ſo many Ages, than they adhered to the inſeparable Intereſts of their King and

* Addiſon's Cato.

Country with the utmoſt Fidelity. They not only, as their Fathers had done on ſuch Occaſions, riſqued their own Lives and thoſe of their Followers; but the Management of Wars now requiring a Force regularly appointed and paid, many of them turned their Eſtates into Money to be employed that Way, while many of the Court Favourites, who had expreſt ſo much Zeal for the King's Intereſt while Things went well with him, and by thoſe indirect Ways, unlike the former Manner of acquiring Nobility, had been advanced to the Dignity of Peerage, no ſooner found his Affairs going wrong than they tacked about: But moſt of the ancient Nobility ſteadily perſiſting in their Duty, were ruined with their King and Country.

FROM what has been ſaid it will ſcarce bear a Diſpute, what Families beſt deſerve theſe hereditary Dignities: Or, Whether this high Truſt, that ſo much regards the Intereſt of Society, will not be ſafer in the Hands of the ancient Nobility, who have come by their Peerage honourably; or in the Hands of thoſe Families of later Creations, who may have attained it otherwiſe. Whether are Families, who by gradual Riſes have acquired Power and Reputation, and after a long Succeſſion of Merit have been created Peers, and on the ſame Occaſions that rais'd them, diſintereſtedly riſqued the Loſs of all, and actually ſuffered with their Country; I ſay, whether are theſe the proper Objects to be intruſted as Guardians of the People's Liberties? Or are Families, who zealouſly ſet themſelves up for juſtifying Court-Meaſures, while themſelves are ſcreened by its Power, and their Eſtates increaſed by its Influence, perhaps at the Expence of the Publick; but when its Affairs go wrong, led by the ſame Self-Intereſtedneſs, deſert its Intereſt, and rather than riſque the Loſs of what they may have unlawfully purchaſt, join the prevailing Enemies of their King and Country, Are theſe, I ſay, proper Objects to be intruſted with Power? I lodge this

this Conduct upon none; but ſuch there may be, and our Hiſtories are open. But Men who have leaſt Pretenſions to Dignities, often ſtruggle hardeſt for them, and tho the Plea of the new Peers will not bear Reaſoning, yet it may admit of cavilling. Nor do I incline to leſſen the Merit of new Peers, ſince it can ſo ill allow of it, but wou'd rather ſhow it in its moſt advantageous Appearance; and even then I am affraid it will ſcarce bear a Compariſon with that of the ancient Peers; tho it muſt be own'd ſome of the new Nobility may have attained their Peerage honourably. And had the preſent Government, as well as the Kings before the Union of the Crowns, but agreed in their Sentiments with the late Reigns, thoſe Families, and many others not yet nobilitate, might not only have ſooner arrived at this Dignity, but alſo at this Time been free from Apprehenſions of loſing it. Theſe new Men conſcious of the Weakneſs of their Pretenſions, yet eagerly intent on being *Britiſh* Peers, imagining thereby to raiſe their Families much above their Superiors at an eaſy Rate, plead not their own Merit, but endeavour to leſſen that of the old Nobility, againſt whom they bring many Objections: As, That altho their Predeceſſors may have well deſerved of the State, in expoſing themſelves for its Intereſt, and are themſelves Men of the ſame Spirit and Capacity; yet now that the Conſtitution is much changed, and that War is managed by regular Mercenaries at the Publick Expence, theſe Qualities are uſeleſs, and a Speech in Parliament is of more Conſequence than the winning a Battle. There's a good deal of Truth in this, and yet I cannot ſee the vaſt Diſproportion I have obſerved betwixt the Merit of the ancient and late Nobility is thereby leſſened: For 'tis ſcarce to be imagined that a Man who for his Country hazards his Perſon in the Field without other By-views or Reward, than being uſefull to Society, will with leſs Warmth adhere to its Intereſt in a Senate. If theſe new Gentlemen

plead greater Sufficiency that Way, I muſt own they cannot be anſwered without making Compariſons that may not perhaps be ſo agreeable. But as Eloquence, Addreſs, and Ability for Counſel are rather hurtful than of any Uſe to one's Country, if they are not attended with the more valuable Qualities of Integrity, Fortitude and Conſtancy, as *Ageſilaus* well obſerved, *That Courage was a hateful Vice, if otherwiſe imployed than in the Service of Juſtice*: So theſe Gentlemen cannot modeſtly plead the former Qualities, until they have had Opportunities likewiſe to convince the World they are alſo poſſeſt of the later. A Court never wants Friends, whilſt its Affairs go right; but Adverſity proves Men of Worth: And I believe the World are agreed, that Men ſubject to Change are not to be intruſted with Power, nor thoſe who deſert their Country's Intereſts in Time of Danger, proper Objects to be intruſted as Guardians of its Liberties. It has been already obſerved, how well the ancient Nobility have on many Occaſions diſcharged that high Truſt, and how conſpicuouſly Integrity appears to have been the peculiar Virtue of moſt of thoſe Families. But the great and main Objection againſt them is, that many of the new Families are poſſeſt of opulent Eſtates, (however acquired no Matter) and that many of the old Families are decayed and low in their Circumſtances. This may have ſome Influence upon mean and depraved People, who miſtake Circumſtances for Things, but can have no Weight with Men of Virtue and Underſtanding: As the judicious *Salluſt* juſtly aſcribes the *Roman* Greatneſs to the *Virtue of a few Citizens, by whoſe Diſcipline and Probity of Manners, handfuls often foiled numerous Armies, and Poverty got the better of Riches*, &c. *But Merit was no ſooner diſappointed, and Men valued in Proportion to their Circumſtances, than that State became a Prey firſt to its own Arms, and afterwards to every Invader.* But if it be made appear, what has

has been already ſaid in Favour of the old Nobility, *viz.* That the State on every Occaſion rewarded their Services in Proportion to their Deſerts, that they acquired by Degrees Wealth, Power and Dignities, that they ever with their Perſons frankly riſqued theſe Acquiſitions, when the Service of their Country required it, and that their Eſtates have been actually impaired the ſame Way they were acquired, *i. e.* ſerving their King and Country; this Objection turns to be the ſtrongeſt Argument can be brought for them. For what Men is a Society to intruſt with the Direction of its Affairs, and Power to protect them; but thoſe who on every Occaſion are ready to ſacrifice it to their Intereſt, and never uſe that Power for other Ends than thoſe for which it was intended? The Troubles of King *Charles* I. were a ſevere Trial: I have already taken Notice of the Conduct of the Nobility on that Occaſion; and thoſe of the old Nobility who are low in their Circumſtances, upon juſt Inquiry will be found to have owed it to their diſintereſted Behaviour at that Time. Now if the Crown ſince the Reſtoration has been leſs grateful in rewarding Men of Worth and Integrity than formerly, and neglected the Services of thoſe Men who ſold their Eſtates to raiſe Men for the Service of their King and Country, is this a Reaſon why they ſhould be now deprived of their Dignities alſo? Or is it not rather a juſt Debt upon the Government, and a convincing Proof that theſe are the only Men fit to be intruſted with Power and ſo high a Truſt, who have ſo candidly exerced it for thoſe Ends for which it was intended?

HAVING thus far cleared the Circumſtances of the *Scots* Nobility, and ſufficiently vindicated the Dignity of the ancient Peerage, I ſhall now for informing our Neighbour Nation, as well as thoſe of our own, who, ſince this elevated Dignity has been abuſed in the Manner I have mentioned, and now ſo much complained of by the Houſe of Peers,

have not thought the Affairs of the Nobility worth their Knowledge, conclude this Diſcourſe with a Liſt of the ancient Peers, as they are ranked by the Lords Commiſſioners appointed by *James* VI. *Anno* 1606, that they may diſtinguiſh the real from the nominal Nobility; thoſe, who beſides their honourable Acquiſition of that Dignity, were likewiſe veſted with proper Powers for exercing that high Truſt, from thoſe who are only diſtinguiſhed from their Fellows by Name, Preference and hereditary Votes in a Parliament. And ſince the preſent happy Conſtitution we live under ſeems ſo ſenſible of this Abuſe as inconvenient for Society, that it intends to reduce their Number; from its former Conduct we may eaſily judge there's neither Faction nor By-view in this, but that it is purely intended to advance the Intereſts of Society, that the Conſtitution may thereby become the more perfect, and its ſeveral Parts leſs liable to Corruption. It may therefore be eaſily conjectured who are to be the *Britiſh* Peers; for beſides the material Difference betwixt the Merit of the ancient and late Peers, that ſo juſtly prefers the former to this high Truſt, there's nothing more gratefull to the People, or more conducive to ſecure their Affections, than the Advancement of old Families to Honours and Dignities: As *Thomaſo Soderini*, an eminent Citizen of *Florence*, juſtly obſerved. This *Soderini* was remarkable for his great Wiſdom and Probity, and tho' no Friend to the *Medici*, yet on the Death of *Piero*, finding many new Men taking the Advantage of the Youth of his Sons to raiſe themſelves, and perceiving how hurtfull it was like to prove to his Country; he convened the Senate and moſt conſiderable Citizens, and recommended to them the two young Gentlemen, telling his Country-men, *If they intended to live quiet at Home, and preſerve their Reputation Abroad, they muſt confer the ſame Honours and Powers upon* Lorenzo *and* Guiliano di Medici, *that had been formerly in the Perſons of their Father* Piero, *and Grandfather* Coſmo; *for this Reaſon, That People are always pleaſed to ſee Men of old Families advanced to Power and Dignity, whoſe Enemies Time hath worn out, and the conſpicuous Merit of whoſe Anceſtors ſeems to render them worthy of high Truſt; but that new and ſudden Promotions are ever attended with Envy and Emulation, and too often produce bad Effects.*

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LIST

LIST of the Scottiſh *Peers, as they are ranked by the Lords Commiſſioners appointed for that Purpoſe by His Majeſty King* James VI. *according to their Decreet pronounced at* Edinburgh *5th* March 1606.

DUKE of

Earl by *Ja.* III. *Stewart*, *Lenox*, Duke, *Ja.* VI. Extinct.

MARQUESSES.

Earl by *Ja.* III. *Hamilton*, *Hamilton*, Marqueſs by *Ja.* VI. now Duke, Male Iſſue interrupted by *Douglas*.

Earl by *Ja.* II. *Gordon*, *Huntley*, Marqueſs by *Ja.* VI. now Duke.

EARLS.

Da II. *Douglas*, *Douglas*, now Duke.

Ja. II. *Campbell*, *Argyle*, now Duke.

Ro. II. *Lindeſay*, *Crawfurd*.

Ja. II. *Hay*, *Erroll*. *Keith*, *Mariſhall*. * *Gordon*, now *Sutherland*; *Sutherland*.

Q. *Mary* *Areskine*, *Marr*.

Ja. II. *Leſly*, *Rothes*, Male Line interrupted by *Hamilton* E. *Hadingtoun*. *Douglas*, *Morton*. *Graham*, *Monteith*, Extinct.

Ja. IV. *Montgomery*, *Eglintoun*, Male Iſſue interrupted by the Lord *Seton*, E. *Winton*.

Ja. IV. *Graham*, *Montroſe*, now Duke.

Ja. IV. *Kennedy*, *Caſſils*.

Ja. II. *Sinclair*, *Caithneſs*.

Ja III. *Cuningham*, *Glencairn*.

Ja. VI. *Areskine*, *Buchan*.

Ja V. *Stewart*, *Murray*, Male Iſſue interrupted by *Stewart* L. *Doun*.

Ja VI. *Stewart*, *Orkney*, Extinct.

Ja. II. *Stewart*, *Athole*, Extinct, repreſented by *Murray* of *Tullibardin*, now Duke.

Ja VI. *Livingſton*, *Linlithgow*.

Ja. VI. *Home*, *Home*.

Ja. VI. *Drummond*, *Perth*.

Ja. VI. *Seton*, *Winton*.

Ja. VI. *Seton*, *Dunfermling*.

Ja. VI. *Home*, *Dumbar*.

LORDS.

Ja. I. *Lindeſay*, *Lindeſay*, now Earl of *Crawfurd* and *Lindeſay*.

Ja. I.

* *Sutherland*, one of *Malcolm Canmore*'s Earls, but the Line being interrupted, was conferred on *Gordon*, Earl, by *James* V.

Ja. I. *Forbes, Forbes.*
Ja. I. *Lyon, Glammis,* now Earl of *Strathmore.*
Ja. I. *Fleming, Fleming,* now Earl of *Wigton.*
Ja. II. *Abernethy, Salton,* now *Fraſer.*
Ja. II. *Gray, Gray.*
Ja. II. *Stewart, Ochiltrie.*
Ja. II. *Cathcart, Cathcart.*
Ja. III. *Douglas, Carlile* and *Torthorill,* Extinct.
Ja. III. *Crichton, Sanquhar,* now Earl of *Dumfries.*
Ja. II. *Hay, Yeſter,* now Marqueſs of *Tweddale.*
Ja. IV. *Semple, Semple.*
Ja. IV. *Sinclair, Sinclair.*
Ja. IV. *Harris, Harris,* Extinct, repreſented by Earl of *Nithiſdale.*
Ja. IV. *Elphinſton, Elphinſton.*
Ja. II. *Maxwell, Maxwell,* now Earl of *Nithiſdale.*
Ja. III. *Oliphant, Oliphant.*
Ja. II. *Fraſer, Lovat.*
Ja. IV. *Ogilvy, Ogilvy,* now Earl of *Airly.*
Borthwick, Borthwick, Extinct.
Ja. IV. *Roſs, Roſs.*
Ja. II. *Boyd, Boyd,* now Earl of *Kilmarnock.*
Abbots created Lords, Ja. VI. *Sandilands, Torphichen.*
Hamilton, Paſley, now Earl of *Abercorn.*
Ker, Newbottle, now Marqueſs of *Lothian.*
Ja. II. *Haliburton, Thirlſtane,* Extinct.
Ja. VI. *Lindeſay, Spinzy,* Extinct
Ja. VI. *Ker, Roxburgh,* now Duke.
Ja. VI. *Leſly, Lindores.*
Ja. VI. *Campbel, Lowdoun,* now Earl.
Ja. VI. *Dirleton* and *Kinloſs,* both Extinct.
Ja. VI. *Elphinſton, Balmerinoch.*
Ja. VI. *Murray, Tullibardin,* now Duke of *Athole.*
Ja. VI. *Colvil, Colvil.*
Ja. VI. *Murray, Scoon,* now Viſcount of *Stormont.*

To the above *Liſt* we have added on the Margin the Names of the Kings by whom theſe Peers were firſt created, according to Mr. *George Crawfurd* in his *Peerage of* Scotland. But how it comes to paſs that thoſe of a later, are ranked before thoſe of an older Creation, it is not eaſy at this Diſtance to determine. All that we can ſuppoſe in the Matter is, that either the Male Line of ſome of them having been interrupted, their Precedency is dated from that Interruption; or that they have then wanted ſufficient Documents of their Antiquity, which have ſince that Time come to Light; or that they have neglected to produce them: Which might the more readily happen, becauſe in the Decreet of Ranking there was ſtill an Opportunity left ſuch of them as might think themſelves prejudiced thereby, to redreſs themſelves in common form before the Lords of Seſſion.

FINIS.